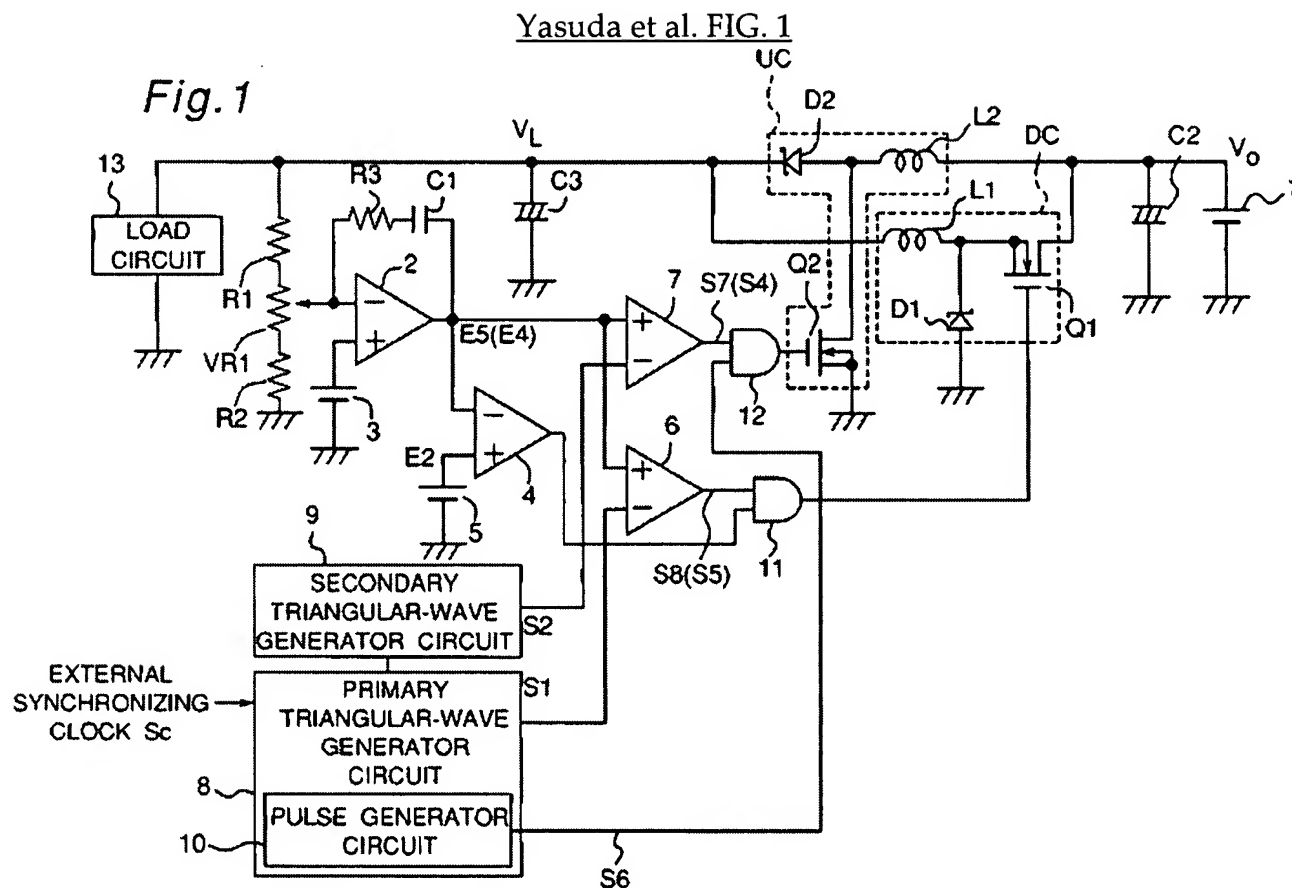


Claim 1 recites a step-up/down DC-DC converter comprising, *inter alia*, “a voltage step-up/down part configured to generate and output a predetermined output voltage by stepping up or down an input voltage in accordance with a control signal input to the voltage step-up/down part; and a control part configured to generate an error signal indicating an error between a voltage value obtained by dividing the output voltage and a predetermined reference voltage” (emphasis added). Claims 7 and 13-14 recite similar limitations. Applicants respectfully submit that Yasuda et al. does not disclose these limitations.

To the contrary, Yasuda et al. discloses that the “when transistor Q2 is turned off, a pulse signal S8 ... is sent to transistor Q1, [and] the step-down switching power supply DC is driven.” Col. 4, ln. 8-10. “When transistor Q1 is turned off, a pulse signal S4 ... is sent to transistor Q2, [and] the step-up switching power supply UC is driven.” Col. 4, ln. 16-18. There is no control signal driving both the step-up and step-down functions. *See* FIG. 1 (reproduced below on the next page). Applicants respectfully submit that Yasuda et al. does not disclose, teach, or suggest a voltage step-up/down part configured to generate and output a predetermined output voltage by stepping up or down an input voltage in accordance with a control signal input to the voltage step-up/down part, as recited in claims 1, 7, and 13-14. Moreover, the Office Action fails to allege that Yasuda et al. discloses this limitation, and has therefore failed to establish a *prima facie* case of anticipation.



Furthermore, Yasuda et al. discloses that the output battery voltage  $V_O$  is not divided or compared to a reference voltage, rather it is output directly. *See* FIG. 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Yasuda et al. does not disclose, teach, or suggest, as recited in claims 1, 7, and 13-14.

Since Yasuda et al. does not disclose all of the limitations of claims 1, 7, and 13-14, claims 1, 7, and 13-14 are not anticipated by Yasuda et al. Claims 6 and 12 depend, respectively, from independent claims 1 and 7, and are patentable at least for the reasons mentioned above, and on their own merits. Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 6-7, and 12-14 be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 2-5 and 8-11 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. 2-5 and 8-11 depend, respectively, from independent claims 1 and 7, and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above, and on their own merits.

In view of the above, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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